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UNCLAS BRATISLAVA 000462

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

EUR/NCE FOR V. LYNN
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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [IZ](#) [LO](#) [EUN](#)
SUBJECT: SLOVAKIA ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT US-EU CONFERENCE ON
IRAQ

REF: A. STATE 103222

[1](#)B. BRATISLAVA 458

[1](#)1. (SBU) Oldrich Hlavacek, Director of the MFA Fourth Territorial Division (covering Africa, Asia, and the Middle East), told pol-econ chief June 13 that Slovakia is "very enthusiastic and looking forward to" the U.S.-EU conference on Iraq (ref A). He said the two most important things about the conference are that 1) the Iraqis are presenting their own ideas, priorities, and interests, and 2) the U.S. and EU "are together."

[1](#)2. (U) Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan will lead the Slovak delegation, which will also include:
-- Maros Sefcovic, Ambassador to the EU, plus two other members of the Slovak mission to the EU;
-- Miroslav Lajcak, Political Director of the MFA;
-- Peter Kmec, Kukan's Chief of Cabinet;
-- Klara Novotna, former ambassador to the U.N. and now Hlavacek's deputy; and
-- Juraj Mlynar from the Slovak mission to the U.N. in New York.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Hlavacek confirmed that Slovakia wants to continue in-kind training and internships for Iraqis such as those organized by the Pontis Foundation with IRI funding. Slovak ministries, media outlets, and NGO's are willing and able to provide these opportunities; the only obstacle is identifying funding. Slovakia will offer four scholarships a year for the next three years for Iraqis to attend Slovak universities - two at the master's level and two at the doctoral level. (The normal limit is two scholarships a year to any given country.) Hlavacek said the MFA favors forgiving Iraqi debt and has been working to convince the Ministry of Finance. Charge will follow-up with Finance Minister Ivan Miklos in a June 15 meeting. Hlavacek confirmed that, despite the June 11 suicide bomber attack on the Slovak embassy in Baghdad (ref B), the Slovak mission would remain open in Iraq, staffed by two diplomats plus local employees. Furthermore, Slovak deminers would continue operating in Iraq.

[1](#)4. (SBU) Vladimir Jakabcin, Director of International Relations at the Ministry of Defense, told Charge June 14 that Defense Minister Juraj Liska had approved a plan to offer Slovak officers to MNF-1. Liska is expected to submit the request to parliament for approval in the coming days. If parliament approves the additional deployment, CINC General Bulik would be charged with identifying the appropriate officers with the needed qualifications for MNF-1.
THAYER

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